

JOHN LEWIS QUOTES  
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In 1956, at the age of 16, I was so inspired by Dr. King that I persuaded some of my brothers and sisters and cousins to go to the public library in Troy, Alabama, to try to get library cards and check out some books. We were told by the librarian that the library was for whites only, and not for coloreds.

In 1968, sanitation workers in Memphis, Tennessee were paid so poorly that many of them qualified for and received public assistance. When unsafe working conditions led to the deaths of several sanitation workers, the union local went on strike and Martin Luther King went to Memphis to support their cause.

He fought to build a nation in which working people have an equal voice at the negotiating table, and we must never forget that he died in Memphis defending the collective bargaining rights of the sanitation workers.

As a result of the movement led by Dr. King, by the time I went back to that library in 1998, I was a member of Congress; and I went there for a book signing of my autobiography. Hundreds of black and whites came, and I signed many books. At the end, they gave me a library card.

It was King's dream to build what he called "the beloved community" in America—a society based on simple justice that values the dignity and the worth of every human being.

The inauguration of Barack Obama as the 44<sup>th</sup> President of the U.S. would not have been possible without the leadership and vision of Martin Luther King. Still, his election is not an end: it is a significant down payment on making Dr. King's dream a reality.

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...Don't measure America by its achievement but by its potential.